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ALLAN BENSE
Speaker



PSC Schedules FPL Storm Hearings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--For further information call 850-488-9330

Tallahassee, FL, February 22—Florida Power & Light customers in South Florida will have an opportunity to express their views of the company's 2005 hurricane restoration efforts at public hearings scheduled in Ft. Myers, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami and West Palm Beach next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (March 1- 3).

The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) has called the hearings in order to receive citizen input regarding FPL's request for an additional \$1.5 billion in customer surcharges to pay for 2005 storm damage expenses and replenish the company's storm reserve. Florida's Public Counsel, Harold McLean, is encouraging FPL customers to attend the meetings and provide their input.

"The State of Florida has been put through some really hard times during the past two years because of the hurricanes that have hit our state and it is important that our Public Service Commission members hear directly from the citizens before any final action is taken in this case," stated McLean. As Public Counsel, McLean represents Florida utility customers before government regulators.

McLean pointed out that his office is in the process of evaluating FPL's request and will provide expert testimony at technical hearings scheduled in Tallahassee in April. "We already know from our preliminary analysis that FPL has overstated the amount of the surcharge that it expects customers to pay, and we will contest those issues in the Tallahassee hearings," he stated. "What is important now is that the Commission hear from the citizens in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the company's historical maintenance practices and the company's performance during hurricane events," he added.

FPL customers are already paying surcharges to compensate the company for the 2004 hurricanes. FPL is asking the PSC to either expand the existing surcharge or to approve a special storm bond that would be recovered over a 12 year period.

The public hearings are as follows:

Ft. Myers, Wednesday, March 1, 1 p.m.
Lee County School Board Room
Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center
2055 Central Avenue

Ft. Lauderdale, Thursday, March 2, 10 a.m.
Broward County Governmental Center
Room 422
115 South Andrews Avenue

West Palm Beach, Thursday, March 2, 4 p.m.
Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center
Palm Beach County School Board
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard, B102

Miami, Friday, March 3, 10 a.m.
Miami City Hall (Dinner Key Hall)
City Commission Chambers
3500 Pan American Drive

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